

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) An isolated oligoribonucleotide consisting of two separate non-linked complementary oligoribonucleotide strands (dsRNA),

wherein the dsRNA is 15 to 21 nucleotides in length,

wherein the dsRNA does not comprise a full length RNA transcript of a mammalian target gene,

wherein one strand of the dsRNA is complementary to less than the full length of an RNA transcript of said mammalian target gene,

and wherein the oligoribonucleotide dsRNA specifically inhibits the expression of said mammalian target gene.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The oligoribonucleotide dsRNA of claim 4, wherein the RNA transcript is a primary or a processed RNA.

7. (Currently Amended) The oligoribonucleotide dsRNA of claim 4, wherein said oligoribonucleotide dsRNA is modified so as to be resistant to RNA degradation.

8. (Currently Amended) The oligoribonucleotide dsRNA of claim 4, wherein said one strand of said dsRNA is fully complementary to less than the full length of an RNA transcript of a mammalian target gene.

9. (Currently Amended) The oligoribonucleotide dsRNA of claim 4 or 8, wherein said two separate complementary strands are fully complementary to each other.

10-15. (Canceled)